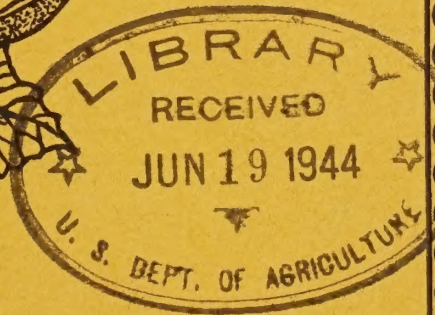
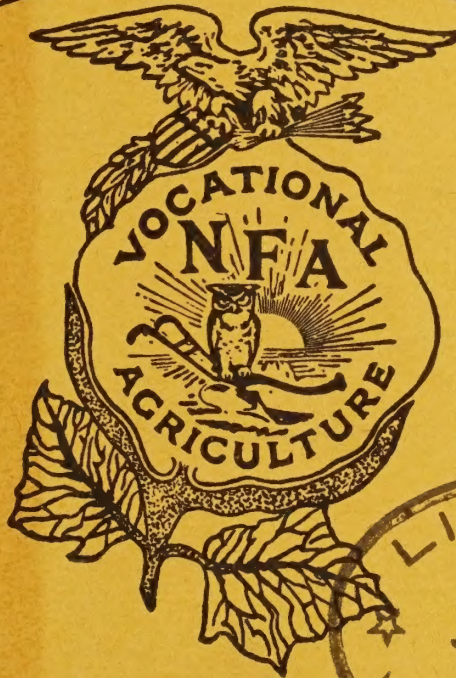
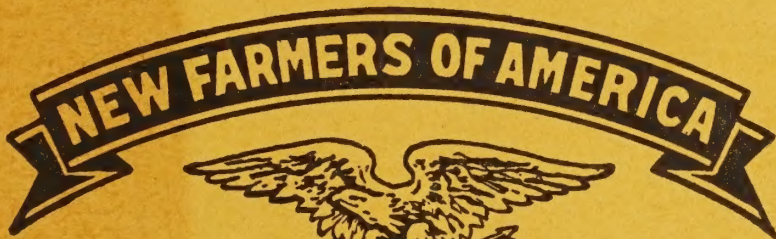


1st Edition

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# N. F. A. GUIDE

FOR



THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION  
FOR NEGRO STUDENTS STUDYING  
VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE





# 1938 N. F. A. GUIDE

FOR

## NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA

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The National Organization For Negro Students  
Studying Vocational Agriculture

FIRST EDITION

1938

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Price 15 Cents Each

By Mail 18 Cents

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OF AMERICA  
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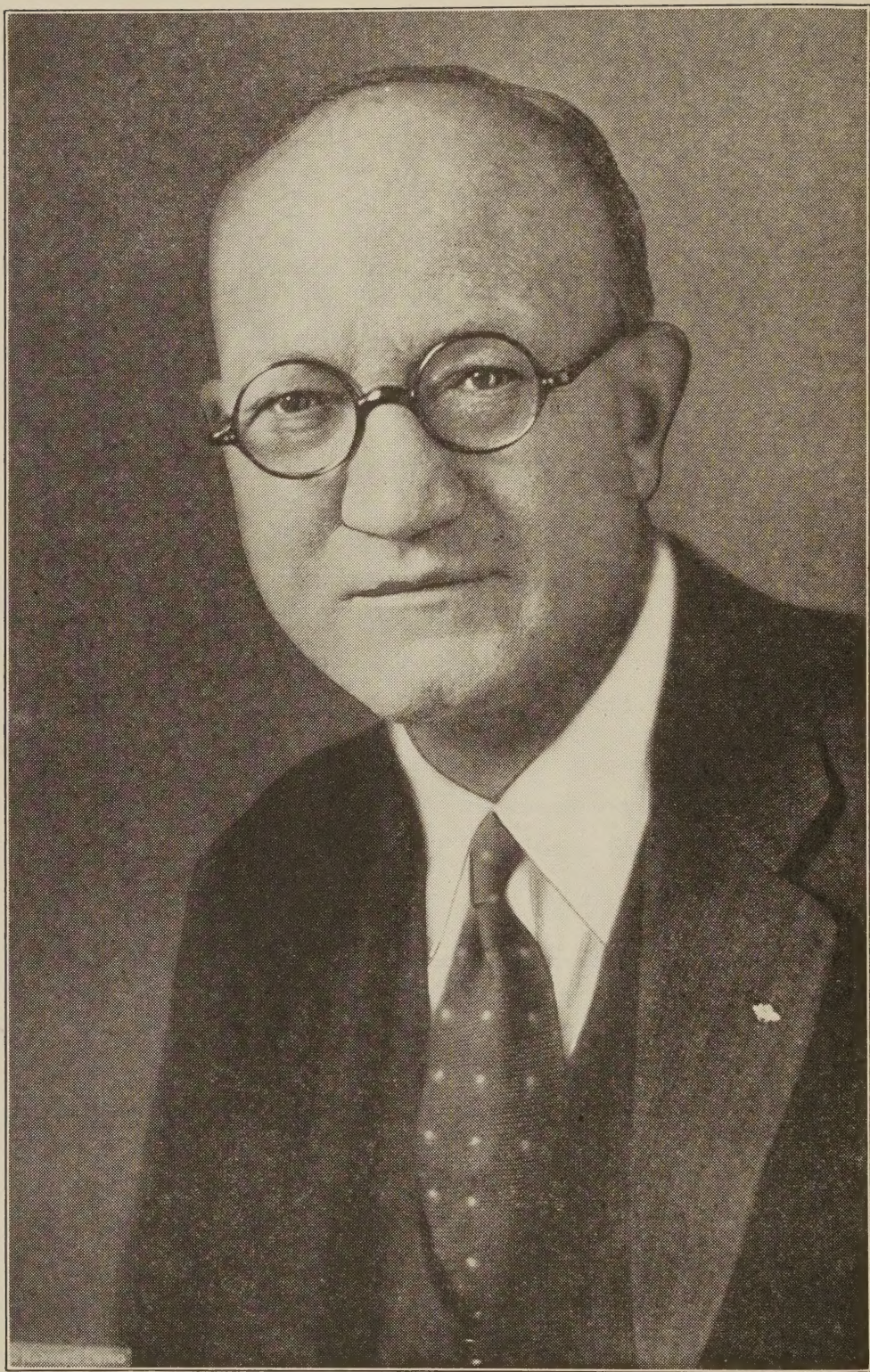
### DEDICATION

This Guide is dedicated to Dr. H. O. Sargent, who for 19 years was agent for Negro education in Agriculture in the Southern States, first with the Federal Board for Vocational Education and later with the Office of Education.

Dr. Sargent, who devoted the best years of his life to Negro educational work, won the admiration, respect, and affection of those with whom he was associated.

JUN 15 1944





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DR. HARVEY O. SARGENT



## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF DR. H. O. SARGENT

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Born near Russellville in Franklin County in the year 1875, Dr. Harvey Owen Sargent spent his early life among the red hills of North Alabama. He was educated in the public and private schools of his native county and grew to young manhood there. While still a youth, only 16 years of age, he began a teaching career, which he followed in later life. He taught because he liked to teach. He loved the teaching profession to which he was truly called. His greatest service to Alabama was that rendered as a teacher, guide, counselor, and friend of the boys and girls of rural North Alabama.

He studied law and was admitted to the bar at an early age. The urge for more training in order that he might measure up to the greatest opportunities for service in the schoolroom was the determining factor in the completion of his education at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, with the degrees of Bachelor of Science and Master of Science. While teaching, he left his work from time to time to pursue graduate studies at Ames, Iowa. Later he was awarded the degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy at George Washington University. His desire to learn was exceeded only by his desire to serve.

In 1917, Dr. Sargent went to the Federal Board for Vocational Education, and was placed in charge of vocational training in agriculture for the Negro race. For nineteen years he served in that capacity. His labors carried him to every Southern State. He was known and loved by educators, both white and colored, throughout the entire South. During this period the number of Negro Departments of Vocational Agriculture increased from 39 to over 600. He was also instrumental in standardizing the agricultural offerings of all the Negro Land Grant Colleges, both the technical and teacher training courses, to the present high state of development.

Dr. Sargent's interest in, understanding of, and sympathy for the Southern Negro was one of his commendable virtues. He gave his undivided time, his best thought and professional interest, in season and out of season, to the vocational education and industrial uplift of the Negro race. For the service he rendered them and the way in which he rendered it, he has received the acclaim of both races. To the Negro he was in life a friend, in death a hero.

**CREED  
OF  
THE NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA**

---

*I believe in the dignity of farm work and that I shall prosper in proportion as I learn to put knowledge and skill into the occupations of farming.*

*I believe that the farm boy who learns to produce better crops and better livestock; who learns to improve and beautify his home surroundings will find joy and success in meeting the challenging situations as they arise in his daily living.*

*I believe that rural organizations should develop their leaders from within; that the boys in the rural communities should look forward to positions of leadership in the civic, social and public life surrounding them.*

*I believe that the life of service is the life that counts; that happiness endures to mankind when it comes from having helped lift the burdens of others.*

*I believe in the practice of cooperation in agriculture; that it will aid in bringing to the man lowest down a wealth of giving as well as receiving.*

*I believe that each farm boy bears the responsibility for finding and developing his talents to the end that the life of his people may thereby be enriched so that happiness and contentment will come to all.*



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# NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA

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## INTRODUCTION

The New Farmers of America is the national organization of Negro farm boys studying vocational agriculture in the public schools throughout the United States. Organized in Virginia in 1926-27, with a few chapters and members, it has expanded until now it numbers some 800 chapters and over 20,000 active members.

The New Farmers of America is a non-profit corporation, which has for its purpose the development of its members in their vocational, social and recreational life through established local chapters where vocational agriculture is taught.

This organization affords its members an excellent opportunity to develop a type of leadership which is very essential for the modern successful farmer. This leadership ability is developed through judging, public speaking, chapter contests, and from the training received through the work of the chapter committees under the supervision of the local adviser. These N. F. A. activities develop boys into capable rural leaders.

## WHY THE N. F. A. APPEALS TO BOYS?

If you are a student of vocational agriculture in a high school and do not belong to the New Farmers of America, you are missing something. You should get initiated at once. It's lot of fun. Yet, aside from the fun there are other things you are missing. As long as you live you are going to be attending meetings of various kinds. You will be going to church meetings, young peoples' meetings, class meetings, and other meetings that deal with the problems of your community and the people with whom you live. You should be able to express your ideas clearly at any of these meetings, but you will not be able to speak clearly and forcefully unless you are trained. You might as well prepare yourself now for all of these occasions that you are going to attend. You might as well learn how to preside at these meetings, for you will be asked to do this many times in your life. You might as well learn how to be a leader and how to conduct any meeting according to parliamentary procedure. This in itself is quite an accomplishment.

In most of the meetings you attend you will find people who can talk with ease to one person, but when they try to talk before an audience, their speech fails them. One of the best opportunities you have for developing the ability to speak before an audience will be found in the New Farmers of America.

And surely, you don't want to miss the opportunity of working with a group of your friends on a definite project that will better the home life of your community. No healthy, red-blooded young American wants to miss all of the social and recreational activities of his chapter.

Therefore, if you like to play, if you enjoy doing something worthwhile, if you want to take a part in activities that are both broadening and strengthening for you, there is only one thing left to be done. An N. F. A. Chapter must be organized in your school. If your chapter is to have an active wide-awake program throughout the entire year, it is going to take team work. What are you going to do about it? This N. F. A. Guide is your handbook.

Study it. Make your organization one of the best N. F. A. Chapters in your State.

---

## HISTORY OF THE NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA

The New Farmers of America had its beginning in Virginia during the winter of 1926-27, with the organization of the New Farmers of Virginia at Petersburg. This organization was begun at the suggestion of Dr. H. O. Sargent, then agent for Negro education in the Office of Education at Washington, who believed that the time was ripe for an organization of Negro agricultural students similar to the Future Farmers of Virginia. G. W. Owens, Teacher Trainer of Virginia State College, wrote a constitution and by-laws for the organization, which in the beginning was composed of eighteen local chapters with about 400 members. Other chapters rapidly followed. In April, 1927, the New Farmers of Virginia chapters held their first State meeting and rally at Virginia State College, Petersburg.

In the meantime, other States, stimulated by Dr. Sargent's advocacy of an organization for Negro agricultural students, signified their desire to establish similar groups and were supplied with details concerning the New Farmers of Virginia as well as with copies of its constitution and by-laws. In a few years most of the Southern States had set up local chapters and State Associations. At this stage of development each state maintained a separate and distinct organization.

The first sectional group meeting was held at Virginia State College in 1928. At this meeting the Eastern Sectional Organization was formed, consisting of



North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. Later Maryland, West Virginia and New Jersey were added. A year or so later, the Almot Sectional Organization was formed, consisting of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas. Shortly following the Almot organization, the Southern Sectional Organization was planned, consisting of Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and Tennessee. The sectional organizations held their annual meetings in the various states of their section from 1928 until 1935. During these years, the New Farmers organization was known only by the name of each respective State; for example, N. F. F. designated the "New Farmers of Florida" and N. F. T. meant the "New Farmers of Tennessee". All other states were similarly designated.

During these years the idea of a National Organization of New Farmers of America had been growing. At the Orangeburg meeting of the Advisers of the Eastern Section in 1929, the consensus of opinion of representatives from Florida, Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, New Jersey, West Virginia and Virginia was that a national organization was not only feasible but highly desirable and necessary for securing the best results in the State Associations and promoting vocational agriculture in the Negro schools throughout the Southland. A committee was appointed to submit recommendations at the next Sectional meetings for the proposed organization and also to design appropriate pins, medals, and keys. At the Sectional meeting in Washington, D. C. in 1931, reports favorable to having a National Organization were discussed and adopted. Meanwhile, the Almot and Southern Organizations also felt that such an organization was desirable. Early in 1935, the late Dr. H. O. Sargent, Federal Agent for Agricultural Education, made arrangements to hold the first National meeting of New Farmers of America at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama. In August of the same year, representatives from all the Southern State Associations met and formed the National Organization of New Farmers of America with a tentative Constitution and By-laws.

In 1936, the National Organization held its second meeting at Hampton Institute, Virginia, when the tentative Constitution and By-laws with certain modifications and changes were formally adopted. The third national meeting was held August 29 to September 1, 1937, at Prairie View State and Industrial College, Prairie View, Texas.

The national organization has become an important factor in the development of the New Farmers of America. It has added dignity and pride to the organization. It is stimulating for a New Farmer to know that he is a part of a great national organization that is made up of similar groups of agricultural students from the other States of the Union.

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA

## ARTICLE I.

### NAME AND PURPOSES

SECTION 1. The name of this organization shall be the New Farmers of America. Members and local chapters are hereinafter referred to as New Farmers of America.

SECTION 2. The purposes for which this organization is formed are as follows:

To create more interest in the intelligent choice of farming occupations.

To assist in the development of individual farming programs and establishment in farming.

To strengthen the confidence of the farm boy in himself and his work.

To create and nurture a love of country life.

To assist in the improvement of the rural home and its surroundings.

To encourage cooperative effort among students of vocational agriculture.

To develop rural leadership.

To promote thrift.

To promote scholarship among students of vocational agriculture.

To encourage recreational and educational activities for students in vocational agriculture.

To advance vocational agricultural education in Negro public schools in the States providing for such instruction.

## ARTICLE II.

### ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1. The New Farmers of America is a national organization of affiliated State associations which are composed of local chapters in schools having organized instruction in vocational agriculture under the provisions of the National Vocational Education Acts.

SECTION 2. Local chapters of New Farmers of America shall be established only in schools where organized instruction in vocational agriculture is given under the provisions of the National Vocational Education Acts.

SECTION 3. Delegates from local chapters shall meet in State convention, organize and adopt a State constitution not in conflict with the National Constitution, elect officers, set up a program of work, and then apply to the national executive-secretary for membership in the organization. Upon receipt of a charter, the State association and the members thereof may then be known as New Farmers of America.

## ARTICLE III.

### MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Membership in this organization shall be Active, Associate, and Honorary.

SECTION 2. Active membership. Any Negro male student of vocational



agriculture, who is regularly enrolled in all-day, day-unit, or part-time class is entitled to active membership in the New Farmers of America organization upon receiving a majority vote of the members present at any chapter meeting. A member may retain his active membership for three years after completing his systematic instruction in vocational agriculture.

SECTION 3. Associate membership. Any former male student of vocational agriculture may be elected to associate membership upon receiving a majority vote of the members present at any chapter meeting. Any former active male member of a New Farmers of America chapter may be elected to associate membership upon receiving a majority vote of the members present at any chapter meeting.

SECTION 4. Honorary membership. Instructors, school principals, superintendents, business men, farmers, and others who are helping to advance vocational agriculture and the N. F. A. may be elected to honorary membership by a majority vote of the members present at any local chapter meeting or convention.

## ARTICLE IV.

### MEMBERSHIP GRADES AND PRIVILEGES

SECTION 1. There shall be four grades of active membership based on achievement. These grades are (1) Farm Hand, (2) Improved Farmer, (3) Modern Farmer, and (4) Superior Farmer.

SECTION 2. Farm Hand. Qualifications for election. Candidates shall:

- (1) Be 14 years of age.
- (2) Be regularly enrolled in a class in vocational agriculture.
- (3) Possess facilities for and have a satisfactory program of supervised practice work.
- (4) Receive a majority vote of the members present at a regular meeting of a local chapter of New Farmers of America.
- (5) Be able to recite from memory the Country Boy's Creed.

SECTION 3. Improved Farmer. Qualifications for election. Candidates shall:

- (1) Have satisfactorily completed at least one year in vocational agriculture, including a program of supervised practice work.
- (2) Have earned and deposited in a bank, or otherwise productively invested at least \$25. NOTE: Any modification of (2) must be approved by the State Adviser.
- (3) Be regularly enrolled in vocational agriculture with an amplified supervised practice program.
- (4) Be able to lead a group discussion for ten minutes.
- (5) Receive a majority vote of the members present at a regular local chapter meeting of New Farmers of America.

SECTION 4. Modern Farmer. Qualifications for election. The qualifications for election are left to the various State associations. The following qualifications are minimum. Candidates shall:

- (1) Have had at least two years of systematic instruction in vocational agriculture with an outstanding supervised practice program in operation.

- (2) Have passed some occupational test supplied by the State staff.
- (3) Have earned and deposited in a bank, or productively invested at least \$100. This may include the \$25 earned while advancing to the grade of Improved Farmer.
- (4) Be familiar with parliamentary procedure through having held office in a local chapter or through having had a satisfactory test in parliamentary procedure.
- (5) Be able to lead a group discussion for 30 minutes.
- (6) Make the school judging team, debating team, other team representing the school, or win outstanding school honors.
- (7) Show marked attainment in scholarship in all school subjects. (Grade C or above.)
- (8) Possess qualities of leadership as shown by having held responsible positions in connection with student, chapter, or church activities.
- (9) Each State shall be entitled to elect at least five (5) individuals with the degree of Improved Farmer to that of Modern Farmer but where the State membership exceeds 250, not more than an additional two (2) per cent of the total State membership may be elected, fractions counted to the nearest whole number. Only copies of written records of achievement verified by the local adviser shall be submitted to the State Adviser by the local executive committee at least one month prior to the State Convention. The State Adviser will then review the records and submit his findings to the State Executive Committee. This committee will nominate at the regular State convention the candidates who have been found most worthy to receive the honor. Briefs of these records shall be read by a member of the executive committee when the students are nominated. The delegates shall then proceed to elect to the Modern Farmer Degree the number of candidates qualifying for the degree.

SECTION 5. Superior Farmer. Qualifications for election. Candidates shall:

- (1) Hold the degree of Modern Farmer at least six months preceding the convention at which nominated to Superior Farmer.
- (2) Be engaged in a farming occupation or have definite plans for becoming a farmer or a leader in agricultural work.
- (3) Possess demonstrative ability to farm by having conducted outstanding program of supervised practice work throughout his vocational agricultural training.
- (4) Have earned and deposited in a bank or productively invested at least \$300.

NOTE: In cases where the applicant has assisted in the support of dependants the amount expended, in the judgment of the National Board of Trustees, may be considered as an investment.

- (5) Possess demonstrative ability to work with others by having participated in some agricultural cooperative enterprise or movement.
- (6) Be recommended by the National Board of Trustees and receive the majority vote of the delegates present at a National Convention of New Farmers of America.

SECTION 6. Associate and honorary members shall not vote nor shall they hold office except that of Adviser in the State associations and local chapters



and that of executive secretary-treasurer and adviser in the national organization. Exceptions to this provision are permitted during the first year of a State association or chapter's existence.

SECTION 7. Only members elected to the grade of Modern or Superior Farmer degree are eligible to hold National office. All local chapter officers should be at least Improved Farmers after the first school year of the organization. That a list of Modern degree Farmers and State Officers be filed with the National Executive Secretary thirty days prior to the annual National Meeting.

SECTION 8. Associate and honorary members are eligible to election to the highest degree within the authority of the unit concerned provided they have done outstanding work in advancing vocational agriculture and the organization of New Farmers of America.

## ARTICLE V.

### OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The officers of the National organization shall be a President, one vice-president from each section, a student secretary, executive secretary, reporter, treasurer and an adviser. These officers shall perform the usual duties of their respective offices and with a trustee from each State shall constitute the Trustees of the National Organization. They shall have full control over the organization, subject only to such regulations and by-laws as may be adopted by the national organization of New Farmers of America. The officers of the national organization shall be elected annually by a majority vote of delegates present at the national convention of New Farmers of America.

SECTION 2. The officers of the State association shall consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Adviser, and Reporter. These State officers, constituting the State Executive Committee, shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the delegates present at a regular State convention of New Farmers of America.

SECTION 3. Each local chapter shall be entitled to two (2) delegates to the State convention.

SECTION 4. Officers of the local chapter shall be elected annually at a regular meeting of the local chapter.

## ARTICLE VI.

### MEETINGS

SECTION 1. A National Convention of New Farmers of America shall be held annually. The time and place shall be determined by the Board of Trustees. Each State is entitled to representation by two delegates.

SECTION 2. The several State conventions shall be held annually and at least 30 days prior to the meetings of the national convention of the New Farmers of America at a time and place to be designated by the State Executive Committee.

SECTION 3. Local chapters shall hold their meetings monthly or oftener throughout the calendar year and at such time and place as may be decided upon by the Executive Committee of the local chapter.

## ARTICLE VII.

### DUES

SECTION 1. Active membership dues in the national organization shall be fixed by the National Board of Trustees on the basis of a budget submitted by said Trustees and approved by the National Adviser and Executive Secretary-Treasurer and a majority vote of the delegates present in the National Convention of New Farmers of America.

SECTION 2. Membership dues in State associations shall be fixed by the State Executive Committee, subject to approval by a majority vote of the delegates present at the State convention of New Farmers of America.

SECTION 3. The dues of any local chapter shall be fixed by majority vote of membership of that chapter.

## ARTICLE VIII.

### AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. Amendments to the National Constitution shall be submitted in writing at any annual meeting of the National Convention. State associations may submit amendments to the National Board of Trustees who shall in turn submit them to the National Convention for recommendations. Amendments may be adopted, or revisions made, by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present at a national convention.

SECTION 2. By-laws may be adopted to fit the needs of any State association, providing they are not in conflict with the State or National constitution. The National constitution may be the constitution for all State associations and local chapters. Flexibility may be obtained through by-laws for each State association and local chapter.

## ARTICLE IX.

### INSIGNIA

SECTION 1. The emblem or insignia of the New Farmers of America shall be made up of four symbols: (1) the plow, representing tillage of the soil and the basis of modern agriculture; (2) the owl, representing wisdom; (3) the rising sun, representing progress and (4) an open boll of cotton, representing important economic agriculture interests having such a vital part in the life of many members. The insignia shall carry the three letters, N. F. A. and the National Key shall be surmounted by an eagle with shield, arrows, and olive branch. The emblem or insignia shall be uniform for all States.

SECTION 2. All active, associate, and honorary members shall be entitled to wear the insignia. All Farm Hands are entitled to wear the bronze insignia. All Improved Farmers are entitled to wear the silver insignia, and the Modern Farmers are entitled to wear the gold insignia. All members elected to the degree of Superior Farmer are entitled to wear the gold insignia mounted on a key and surmounted by the American Eagle.



# BY-LAWS

## ARTICLE I.

### DUTIES OF THE NATIONAL OFFICERS

SECTION 1. *President.* It shall be the duty of the President to preside over all meetings of the National Convention of New Farmers of America and over all meetings of the National Board of Trustees. The President shall call one meeting of the National Convention each year on such date and at such place as shall be fixed by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees. He shall call special meetings of the National Convention or of the Board when requested to do so by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees. The President shall appoint all committees and may serve as an ex-officio member of these committees.

SECTION 2. *Vice-President.* The First Vice-President shall assume all of the duties of the President in the event the office becomes vacant by resignation or otherwise; shall preside over all meetings in absence of the President and assume such other duties as are assigned him by the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 3. *Student Secretary.* The Student Secretary shall perform the duties common to such an office, such as keeping an accurate record of the meetings of the National Convention and the meetings of the Board of Trustees, one copy of which shall be given to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer for the permanent files and one copy kept for his own files. He shall perform such other duties as he is directed to perform by the Executive Secretary-Treasurer or by the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 4. *The Executive Secretary-Treasurer.* The Executive Secretary-Treasurer shall act as the agent of the National Board of Trustees. He shall issue charters to States when ordered to do so by the Board and shall act as publicity agent for the organization; shall keep the permanent records of the organization and have records of the membership and progress. He shall review all reports from the State associations and inform the National Board of Trustees of any proceedings which appear to be in conflict with the provisions of the National constitution. He shall act as the custodian of the funds of the organization, collect State dues, keep an accurate record of all receipts, bank deposits, and disbursements, making an annual report on such matters at the National Convention, and such other supplementary reports as may be directed by the Board of Trustees. He shall pay out of the treasury such funds as are ordered by the Board of Trustees on checks countersigned by the President. He shall furnish the Auditing Committee with an annual bank statement signed by an officer of the bank in which the funds are kept. He shall furnish a suitable bond, the amount to be fixed by the Board of Trustees. He shall submit a budget of proposed expenditures to the Board of Trustees annually. He shall be in charge of arrangements for the annual meeting of the National Convention and perform other duties as may pertain to the furtherance of the organization.

SECTION 5. *The Adviser.* The Adviser is a member of the National Board of Trustees and ex-officio member of all committees. It is his duty to advise the Board and committees on matters of policy and assist the National officers in conducting meetings and programs. The adviser reviews all applications for the Superior Farmer degree and prepares a brief of the qualifications of the candidates to be submitted to the Board of Trustees and delegates.

SECTION 6. *Method of electing National officers.* A nominating committee

consisting of two members from each of the three sections and one member at large, shall study and review the qualifications of all members under consideration for National office. This committee will make its report at the National Convention. The election of officers shall be by ballot and requires majority vote of the delegates present. State organizations shall supply the Executive Secretary with a list of candidates for office and their qualifications sixty days before date of National Meeting. This information shall be sent to members of the nominating committee by the Executive Secretary thirty days before meeting in order that they may review these records.

The President and the Student Secretary shall not be elected to succeed themselves neither may they be elected from the same section for two successive years. The candidate for Vice-President receiving the highest number of votes will be the First Vice-President; second highest—Second Vice-President; and, third highest, Third Vice-President.

## ARTICLE II.

### METHOD OF ISSUING CHARTERS TO STATES

SECTION 1. The secretary of a State association shall submit with the application for a charter the following information: (1) A copy of the proposed State constitution and by-laws; (2) a copy of the State program of work; (3) a list of all local chapters and a statement of the total membership of each; and (4) the name, grade of membership and address of each officer of the State association.

SECTION 2. The application for the State charter to the National Executive Secretary-Treasurer shall be signed by the President, Student Secretary, and Adviser of the State association and shall be accompanied by a fee of \$5 to cover cost and engraving of the charter. A charter shall be granted upon such application provided that the proposed State constitution is not in conflict with the National Constitution of the New Farmers of America, such charter to be signed by the National Secretary and by the National Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

SECTION 3. The National Convention of New Farmers of America shall have power to suspend such charter upon receipt of evidence of infringement of the provisions of the sectional constitution by the State association.

## ARTICLE III.

### PROCEDURE FOR CHOOSING CANDIDATES FOR SUPERIOR FARMER DEGREE

SECTION 1. State associations may submit one candidate for Superior Farmer degree for each 1,000 members in the State association or major fraction thereof.

SECTION 2. Election to the degree of Superior Farmer shall be from the candidates at large.

SECTION 3. Not more than 28 candidates shall be elected to this degree annually.

SECTION 4. The National Board of Trustees shall formulate annually a score card for selecting the candidates for Superior Farmer degree. Copies of



the card shall be sent to each State Adviser at least three months prior to the meeting of the National Convention.

SECTION 5. Applications for the Superior Farmer degree shall be forwarded by the State Adviser to the National Executive Secretary-Treasurer at least 60 days prior to the meeting of the National Convention of New Farmers of America.

SECTION 6. Applications should be submitted on the regulation forms prepared and distributed by the Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

SECTION 7. No candidate shall receive the Superior Degree unless his local N. F. A. chapter and his State N. F. A. Association have properly received their charters.

## ARTICLE IV.

### REPORTS TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER

SECTION 1. Each State secretary shall submit the following information:

- (1) An annual statement of the names of States officers, names of delegates to the National Convention and names of those receiving the Modern Farmer degree.
- (2) A report of changes of amendments in the State constitution and by-laws, if any.
- (3) Annual report forms to be furnished to the State Secretary by the National Secretary showing:
  - a. Revised list of chapters in State and total number of members in each chapter.
  - b. Such information as deemed advisable and called for by the National Board of Trustees and National Executive Secretary.

## ARTICLE V.

### COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. The National President of New Farmers of America shall appoint three regular committees annually; The Nominating Committee, the Auditing Committee and the Committee on Program of Work.

SECTION 2. The Nominating Committee shall after careful consideration of Superior Farmers place in nomination the candidates for the various National offices.

SECTION 3. The Auditing Committee shall audit the books of the National Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

SECTION 4. The Committee on Program of Work shall set up the annual objectives of the organization and suggest ways and means of attaining them.

SECTION 5. The members of these committees shall serve through one convention.

## ARTICLE VI.

### PROCEDURE FOR DETERMINING STANDING OF STATE ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERS

SECTION 1. A State association shall be considered in good standing with

the National organization of New Farmers of America when the following conditions are met:

1. All current annual National dues paid into National Treasury on the date specified by the National Board of Trustees.
2. All reports submitted to the National Executive Secretary-Treasurer as requested.
3. State constitution not in conflict with national constitution in any of its provisions.

SECTION 2. An active member shall be considered in good standing when he attends local chapter meetings with reasonable regularity, shows an interest in and takes part in the affairs of the chapter, and pays his dues regularly.

SECTION 3. It shall be the duty of the National Executive Secretary-Treasurer to report the standing of each State Association of N. F. A. to the National Board of Trustees at the Annual Convention. In case any State association is not in good standing for a period of twelve months, the delegates in the National Convention shall have the power, upon recommendation of National Board of Trustees, to refuse such State officials representation at the annual National Convention. When and if such action is taken the State association in question and chapters thereof shall be denied the regular privileges enjoyed by official State associations and chapters. By meeting the requirements for good standing a State association may be reinstated at any time by action of the National Board of Trustees.

## ARTICLE VII.

### NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

SECTION 1. There shall be a National Advisory Council of the New Farmers of America composed of three State Advisers, one selected from each section, elected annually, the National Adviser, the Regional Agent, the Chief of the Agricultural Education Service of the United States Office of Education and the National Executive Secretary-Treasurer. The National Adviser shall act as chairman of this council.

SECTION 2. This National Advisory Council shall cooperate with and serve in an advisory capacity to the National Adviser of the N. F. A. on the administrative direction of the National Organization and interpret the national constitution of the N. F. A. The council shall possess the power to approve the action of the Board of Trustees and delegates to the National Convention.

## ARTICLE VIII.

### INSIGNIA

SECTION 1. The insignia shall carry the three letters, N. F. A., and the words Vocational Agriculture. These words shall be on emblem and the National Key shall be surmounted by an eagle with shield, arrows, and olive branch. The insignia and emblem shall be uniform for all States.

□



## THE CHAPTER EQUIPMENT

In N. F. A. meetings, each officer should have a regular place or post, and his emblem should be displayed so that it may be seen from all parts of the room. If there is more than one door to the room where the meeting is being held, these doors should be securely fastened, and all persons entering the place of meeting should pass through the door at which the Watchman and Historian are stationed.

All equipment of the N. F. A. Organization should be kept in good repair and well displayed in the room at all times. The following is a suggested list of the officers with their designated emblem:

President .....	Rising Sun
Vice-President .....	Plow
Secretary .....	Cotton Boll
Treasurer .....	Picture of Booker T. Washington
Reporter .....	United States flag
Adviser .....	Owl
Historian .....	Scrapbook
Watchman .....	Straight stick of native wood about four feet long
Parliamentarian .....	N. F. A. Guide
Chaplain .....	Bible
Song Leader .....	Baton

It is the duty of the officers to see that the chapter equipment is provided for use in the meetings. Most of this material may be secured at very little cost.

The Rising Sun may be drawn upon white cardboard or it may be purchased as a New Farmer felt banner. It should be placed above the station occupied by the President.

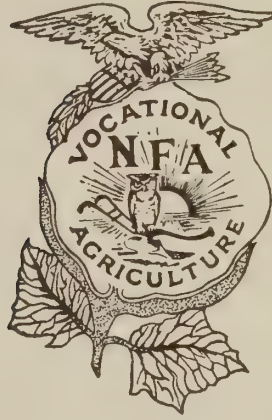
Several large open bolls of cotton should be secured and each lock fastened in the burr with glue. These are to be placed at the station of the Secretary, and one boll may be worn on the lapel of the Secretary's coat.

Miniature plows may be made or secured from John Deere & Company, Moline, Ill. Send a letter requesting the plow to your State Adviser for his approval.

A stuffed owl should be secured and perched upon a limb above the Adviser's station. If a real owl cannot be secured, a good drawing or picture may be substituted.

The chapter equipment is necessary for use in meetings and initiations. The N. F. A. Chapter will not be complete without it.

## THE N. F. A. EMBLEM



The N. F. A. Emblem is described in the National Constitution under article six as the insignia. The Emblem is made up of five distinct symbols: (1) The background consists of an open cotton boll, representing important economic agricultural interests having a vital part in the life of the membership; (2) the Rising Sun, representing progress; (3) the plow, representing tillage of the soil and the basis of modern agriculture; (4) the owl, representing wisdom. The owl is seated on the plow beam; (5) the American eagle with shield, arrows and olive branch is placed on the top of the cotton boll. To be complete the words "Vocational Agriculture" and the letters "N. F. A." are placed on the emblem, as indicated in the above picture.

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## INSIGNIA FOR N. F. A. DEGREES



As the N. F. A. Constitution provides:

1. The Farm Hands are entitled to wear bronze insignia.
2. The Improved Farmers are entitled to wear silver insignia.
3. The modern Degree Farmers are entitled to wear gold insignia.

The above mentioned insignia do not carry the American Eagle with shield, arrows and olive branch. This key can be secured only through the State Adviser.

4. The Superior Farmer Degree is given by the national N. F. A. organization. It consists of a solid gold insignia mounted on a key and surmounted by the American eagle. This key can only be purchased by the National Executive Secretary after the National body has made the proper authorization.



## THE N. F. A. COLORS

The official N. F. A. colors are black and old gold. These colors should be used in decorating banquets, fairs, and other special N. F. A. meetings.

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### NATIONAL N. F. A. DAY IN HONOR OF THE LIFE AND WORK OF BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

April 5th has been adopted as National N. F. A. Day and all local chapters should have an appropriate program on this occasion. The program should contain the following:

*First:* The Life and Work of our Greatest Negro American, Booker T. Washington and his contribution to vocational education.

*Second:* Outstanding achievements of local N. F. A. chapters.

A national N. F. A. broadcast is annually provided by the National N. F. A. Organization.

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### THE UNITS OF N. F. A. ORGANIZATION

1. The local organization in a department of vocational agriculture is known as "The.....Chapter  
(school, county, or other name)  
of the New Farmers of America."
2. A group of local chapters of a State Association is known as  
"The.....Federation of New Farmers of  
(name)  
America."
3. The State Organization is known as "The.....Association  
(State)  
of New Farmers of America."
4. The National Organization is known as "The New Farmers of  
America."

□

# ORGANIZING THE CHAPTER

## SELECTING THE OFFICERS

The success of the chapter depends upon the ability of the group to select capable leaders.

The following is a suggested procedure for selecting the officers:

1. The Adviser should assemble the boys and explain to them the opportunities afforded by the local, State, and National N. F. A. organization.
2. Have the boys help develop a list of the duties and qualifications of each officer.

President

Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

Reporter

Any other officers

3. Have the boys rate the N. F. A. membership by the use of the following chart.

### \*RATING CHART FOR SELECTING N. F. A. OFFICERS

<i>Name of Pupil</i>	<i>Likable</i>	<i>Respect for others</i>	<i>Honesty</i>	<i>Neat- ness</i>	<i>Scholar- ship</i>	<i>Attitude</i>	<i>Respon- sibility</i>	<i>Accur- acy</i>	<i>Interest</i>	<i>Appear- ance</i>
John										
Robert	A	C	A	B	B	A	A	B	A	C
Carl										

\*Grade by letters as is the practice in your own school.  
The chief purpose of this chart is to start the boys to thinking.

4. Have the chapter select the nominating committee for chapter officers.
5. The adviser meets with the committee. The committee weighs the advice of the High School Principal and the information of the rating charts. The adviser should act as a guide to assist the committee in nominating the officers.
6. Prepare a ballot and post it on the bulletin board at least two or three days before election for the consideration of the members.
7. Elect the officers by ballot.
8. Install the officers by allowing retiring officers to charge the duties of their respective offices to the incoming officers.

□



# SOME DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS

## ADVISER

Those who have the responsibility of advising local or state N. F. A. units should realize that the organization is mainly a device which is used in developing more efficient rural citizens. The adviser's first duty is to acquaint himself with the purposes of the N. F. A. and develop the procedure to be used in getting the membership to take part in carrying out each objective.

1. Acquire a knowledge of the State and National N. F. A. Constitution and by-laws.
2. Have chapter draw up constitution and by-laws in keeping with National and State policies.
3. Secure information on the achievements of outstanding chapters and acquaint the membership with same.
4. Get organization perfected as soon as school starts.
5. Keep organization active during summer months.
6. Encourage the development of initiative, with each member, by giving him definite duties to perform.
7. Inspire boys to take part in local, state and national activities.
8. Guide and encourage the boys but do not dictate or run the organization.
9. Aid members in making plans for exhibits, reports, tours, banquets, etc. Devise means whereby each member will have an active part in the chapter activities.
10. Use committee system in putting over various objectives. Try to get all members on one of the committees and see that each committee is headed by a member who has had experience.
11. See that accounts and records are properly made and filed; that the membership lives up to requirements as stated in the constitution.
12. See that a desirable time is provided for scheduled meetings. Open and close meetings on time.
13. Guide members in selling N. F. A. work to the public and the school officials.
14. See that the members are initiated at proper time and according to the proper initiation ceremonies.
15. Assist chapter in setting up programs of work.
16. Stimulate and guide the committee leaders.
17. See that the members secure the official N. F. A. Guide.
18. See that all dues are paid and promptly forwarded to State Adviser, or to the properly designated authority.
19. See that chapter equipment is secured.
20. Have executive committee check and approve applications for higher degrees.
21. Make room in filing cabinet for N. F. A. Secretary's records, minutes of meetings, and other material.

## PRESIDENT

1. Preside at meetings.
2. Conduct meetings according to parliamentary procedure.
3. Appoint all committees. (Suggestions of the executive committee may be secured.)
4. Serve as ex-officio member of all committees.
5. See that all committees are kept active or properly discharged.
6. Assist program committee in preparing a well-planned program for each meeting.
7. See that all chapter officers perform their duties.

## VICE-PRESIDENT

1. Assist the President at all times.
2. Preside in the absence of the President.
3. Assist the President in coordinating committee work.

## SECRETARY

1. Prepare and read the minutes of meetings.
2. Have available for the president the list of business for each meeting.
3. Attend to official correspondence.
4. Send out notices.
5. Count and record rising vote when taken.
6. Prepare chapter records.
7. Keep the permanent records of the chapter.
8. Cooperate with the Treasurer in keeping an accurate membership roll.
9. Call meeting to order in absence of any presiding officer.
10. Have on hand for each meeting the following:
  - (1) Minute book and minutes of previous meeting.
  - (2) Lists of committees and copies of committee reports.
  - (3) Copy of local program of work.
  - (4) Copy of chapter constitution and by-laws.
  - (5) Official N. F. A. Guide.

## TREASURER

1. Collect all dues and assessments and act as custodian of all funds.
2. Pay out funds as authorized.
3. Assist Secretary in keeping accurate roll of members.
4. Assist in preparing the annual budget of expenditures.
5. Keep an accurate financial record.
6. Develop appropriate ways and means of financing activities.
7. Prepare all financial reports and statements.
8. Encourage systematic saving and individual thrift.



9. Build up the organization's financial standing.
10. Familiarize school authorities of the financial standing of the organization.

#### REPORTER

1. Gather and publish all N. F. A. news.
2. Keep an accurate record of published N. F. A. news articles.
3. Assist in the developing of programs to keep the public informed of N. F. A. activities.

#### PARLIAMENTARIAN

1. Assist the officers in conducting meetings in a business-like way.
2. Rule on points in question concerning parliamentary procedure.
3. Keep in his possession the following :
  - a. A standard publication on parliamentary procedure.
  - b. A copy of the N. F. A. Guide.
  - c. A copy of the local constitution and by-laws.

#### HISTORIAN

1. Keep an accurate history of the organization.
2. Compile all material for and be the custodian of the scrapbook.

#### CHAPLAIN

1. Have charge of the religious ceremonies on all occasions.

#### SONG AND CHEER LEADER

1. See that the members are acquainted with appropriate songs and yells.
2. Be responsible for all music.

#### WATCHMAN

1. Be the custodian of the equipment.
2. Be responsible for setting up the room for all meetings.

□

# PLANNING A PROGRAM OF WORK

## GENERAL STATEMENT

In planning a program of work, it is essential that the program be broad enough to be interesting to all of the members, and of such a nature that every member will have an opportunity to participate in the activities of the chapter.

The following is a suggested procedure :

1. The year's program of work should be planned within thirty days after school opens.
2. Boys discuss at chapter meeting last year's program of work, checking on both successes and failures and why. They also review the National and State programs of work. From this discussion the tentative objectives of the annual program of work are selected.
3. A committee is appointed to review and develop the new program of work. This committee sets up a tentative program based on the discussion and outcome of the preceding chapter meeting.
4. Committee reports back to the chapter. The tentative program is discussed, modified, changed, and, if necessary, may be sent back to the committee several times for further work.
5. When a program satisfactory to a majority of the members has been developed, it is adopted by the chapter.
6. The entire chapter membership sets to work on the program adopted.

The adviser should not consider the program complete until committees have been elected or appointed to carry out each goal or objective set up as a part of the year's program. Each adviser should see to it that his chapter holds regular meetings and outlines and carries out a definite program of activities throughout the entire year.

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## SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

The list of objectives and activities given below have been selected carefully, and should prove to be very helpful to N. F. A. officials in planning programs of work. *Be sure to let the N. F. A. boys do all the work. The Adviser only guides.*

1. Prepare an annual scrapbook, illustrating with pictures, news articles and printed material showing the accomplishments of the N. F. A. chapter.
2. See to it that all officials and chairmen of committees have N. F. A. Guides.
3. Start a special N. F. A. Library and add a few new books annually.
4. Strive to have 100 per cent of members take part in the thrift bank activity.
5. Plan the Father and Son Banquet to be given at a strategic time and use it as a means of accomplishing a specific objective.
6. Local chapter aid teacher in enrolling students for part-time class.
7. Publish a State N. F. A. news sheet.
8. Secure at least one local advertisement for state publication.
9. Exchange N. F. A. publication with other organizations.
10. Plan local and state program for organized conservation work.
11. Conduct a local public speaking contest.

12. Keep former N. F. A. members active in work of the chapter.
13. Help adviser keep a permanent record of former members.
14. Make a financial budget which will enable the chapter to put over activities in the program.
15. Collect fees at earliest convenient date.
16. Have all financial activities recorded in minutes of the Secretary.
17. Have financial accounts audited and made clear to members and school officials.
18. Engage in cooperative buying and selling.
19. Keep an accurate written record of achievements on program of work for use in making up annual report on accomplishments.
20. Provide suitable roadside markers for N. F. A. boys who carry out standard supervised farm programs.
21. Encourage members to take part in local, state and national N. F. A. contests.
22. Have special bulletin board committee, which will show reports of outstanding activities from time to time.
23. Purchase a radio for the chapter.
24. Make plans to conduct a radio program through your state supervisor.
25. Conduct a public N. F. A. program, April 5.
26. Make farms of members more attractive and modern.
27. Make special plans to raise funds for the State H. O. Sargent Scholarship Fund.
28. Hold special group meetings with near-by chapters for activities like tours, leadership schools, initiations, pageants, debates, fairs, etc.
29. Conduct meetings for the definite purpose of providing training in parliamentary procedure.
30. Encourage more members to qualify for the Modern and Superior degrees.
31. Have state association make arrangement for summer camps and leadership schools.
32. Give publicity to state and national radio programs.
33. Develop special musical organizations such as:
  - a. Quartette or Choral Club.
  - b. Orchestra.
  - c. Band.
34. Secure charter for organization. (See your State Adviser.)
35. Secure all chapter meeting equipment, such as owl, plow, etc.
36. Improve the school campus by:
  - (1) Planting trees and shrubs.
  - (2) Keeping the fence posts whitewashed.
  - (3) Keeping window panes put in.
  - (4) Laying out walks and drives.
  - (5) Keeping campus free of paper and trash.



# SAMPLE FORM FOR ANNUAL PROGRAM OF WORK AND ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE N. F. A. CHAPTER

<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Permanent Sub-Committees for the Year</i>	<i>Ways and Means to be Set Up By Sub-Committee</i>	<i>Month to be Completed</i>
100% N. F. A. dues paid.	Tom Jones Sam Rice Bob Spear	Divide members into two membership teams for contest. Give winning team a weiner roast, served by the losing team.	September
Secure N. F. A. Chapter equipment.	Elmer Watkins W. Glenn L. Revis	Let chapter decide how to secure each item.	September
Hold Father and Son banquet.	W. H. Moffitt B. Fuller W. Amos	Read suggestions in N. F. A. Handbook.	November
Sponsor community fair.	J. Moffitt C. Daye E. Webb	Boys plan the fair. Ask patrons' help.	December
Sponsor party with Home Economics Class.	Jake Harlow Rose Wilson Adviser Home Economics teacher	Use joint committees of N. F. A. boys and H. E. girls.	January
Aid 10 destitute families.	J. Thorpe P. Bullock R. Floss	Ask for clothing and food donations from families in community. Give benefit play.	December
Beautify homes.	A. Evans M. Jones J. Neal	Each member plant lawn and native shrubbery. Build home conveniences in shop.	February April
Give N. F. A. Minstrel.	H. Alston C. Browne G. Webb	Play to be given by class.	April
Make N. F. A. Scrap Book.	A. Burton B. Holloway C. Webb	Include news articles, pictures, programs, etc.	September to May
Secure N. F. A. library.	W. White L. Parker B. Davis	Get books donated. Give play for purchasing new books.	July 1
Observe National N. F. A. Day, April 5th.	M. Parrish J. Goss G. Fuller	Plan chapel program on Booker T. Washington. Chapter tune in on National Broadcast.	April
Improve home orchards.	T. Nix L. Burford C. Norris	Each member plant 5 fruit trees. Buy trees cooperatively for farmers. Chapter buy a sprayer for use in community.	February to May
Secure tools for farm shop.	E. Page O. Harris S. Henry	Request Superintendent and School Board for tools. Each boy donate one tool.	March
Send team to State Judging Contest.	B. Ake N. Cooke F. David	Hold a benefit program for funds. Train excellent team.	May
Hold barbecue for the Dads.	B. Tinney A. Laid F. Skipper	Get food donated by N.F.A. boys, such as potatoes, hen, and fruit. Fatten the school pig.	April

Treasurer  
Official Treasurer's Book  
Booker T. Washington

Creed

President  
N.F.A. Banner  
Gavel

Charter

Adviser Owl

N. F. A.  
LIBRARY

NEW PARTNERS OF AMERICA  
DURHAM CHAPTER

SEATS  
FOR  
MEMBERS

Vice - President - Plow

Secretary - Cotton Boll  
Official Sect. Book Boll

Reporter - Flag

Officer's  
Table

# ARRANGEMENT OF N.F.A. CHAPTER ROOM

By Otha T. Sonnie

# N. F. A. CEREMONIES

## SUGGESTIONS FOR USING N. F. A. CEREMONIES

It is very important that all N. F. A. Degrees be properly conferred with their designated ceremonies.

The Opening and Closing Ceremonies should be used by the officers of the chapter in all regular meetings. However, it is very desirable to select initiating teams for the other ceremonies. These teams may be composed of regular officers, but it is probably preferable for the initiating teams to be selected from the other qualified members of the chapter. This plan allows a greater number of boys to participate in the ceremonies of the local chapter.

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## THE CEREMONY FOR OPENING THE MEETING

*President: (Raps with gavel.)* This chapter will come to order. We are holding a meeting of the.....Chapter of New Farmers of America. Are all officers at their stations, Mr. Vice-President?

*Vice-President:* I shall call the roll of officers to ascertain whether they are at their station and report back to you, Mr. President.

*(The arrangement of Room may be modified to suit local conditions.)*

*Vice-President: (Calling roll of officers.)* The reporter.

*Reporter:* Stationed under the flag of the United States of America.

*Vice-President:* Why under the flag?

*Reporter:* As the flag covers America, so should I strive to cover the country with information in order that the public may know that the New Farmers of America is a National Organization that is found in all the States having Negro rural schools.

*Vice-President:* The Treasurer.

*Treasurer:* Stationed under the picture of Booker T. Washington.

*Vice-President:* Why under the picture of Booker T. Washington?

*Treasurer:* I keep record of receipts and disbursements just as Washington kept his accounts—carefully and accurately. I encourage thrift among the members and strive to build up our financial standing through savings and investments. Booker T. Washington was better able to serve his countrymen and posterity, because he was financially independent.

*Vice-President:* The Secretary.

*Secretary:* Stationed at the "Boll of Cotton".

*Vice-President:* What are your duties there?

*Secretary:* I keep an accurate record of all meetings and correspond with other secretaries wherever cotton is grown and New Farmers are organized.

*Vice-President:* Mr. Adviser.

*Adviser:* Here at the Owl's nest.

*Vice-President:* Why stationed at the owl's nest?

*Adviser:* The owl is the time-honored emblem of knowledge and wisdom. Being older than the rest of you, I am asked to advise you from time



to time as the need arises. I hope that my advice will always be based on true knowledge and ripened with wisdom—Mr. Vice-President, why do you keep a plow at your station?

*Vice-President:* My own position is by the plow—the symbol of labor and tillage of the soil. Without labor, neither knowledge nor wisdom can accomplish much. My duties require me to work for this organization in every way possible. I preside over meetings in the absence of our president, who stands beneath the rising sun, and assist him at all times in directing the work of the chapter.

*Adviser:* Why is the president stationed beneath the rising sun?

*Vice-President:* The rising sun is the token of a new era in Agriculture. If we will but follow the leadership of our president, we shall be led out of the darkness of selfishness and into the glorious sunlight of brotherhood and cooperation. Mr. President, all officers are at their stations.

*President:* The secretary will call the roll of members.

*(Secretary rises and calls roll.)*

*Secretary:* All present are members of this organization, Mr. President, or are otherwise authorized to be here.

*President:* Thank you. New Farmers, why are we here?

*(All stand at three raps of gavel.)*

*All:* To practice brotherhood, honor rural opportunities and responsibilities, and develop those qualities of leadership which a New Farmer of America should possess. *(Take seats.)*

*President:* May we accomplish our purposes. I now declare the.....  
Chapter of New Farmers of America duly opened for the transaction of business under parliamentary procedure.

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## SUGGESTED ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Opening ceremony (includes the call to order and roll call).
2. Minutes of the previous meeting.
3. Orders of the day, if any, (statement of general order of business, determined for the meeting by the secretary).
4. Officer reports.
5. Report on plans and accomplishments in connection with the program of work.
6. Special feature (music, speaker, etc.).
7. Unfinished business.
8. Committee reports:
  - (1) Standing.
  - (2) Special.
9. New business.
10. Degree ceremonies.
11. Closing ceremony.
12. Entertainment, recreation, refreshments.

## THE CLOSING CEREMONY

*President:* Mr. Secretary, have you any record of further business which should be transacted?

*Secretary:* I have none, Sir.

*President:* Does any member know of any new or unfinished business which should properly come before this meeting?

*(If no answer, proceed as follows) :*

We are about to adjourn this meeting of the.....  
Chapter. As we join with our fellow students and classmates, let us be diligent in labor, just in our dealings, and in all things be honest, and above all, play the game fair. Fellow members, join me in a salute to our flag.

*Raps three times with Gavel to call members to stand.*

*All: (At salute)* "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

*President:* I now declare this meeting adjourned until the next regular meeting or until a special meeting shall be called by your president.

*Raps with Gavel as meeting is adjourned.*

□

## INITIATION CEREMONY FOR THE DEGREE OF FARM HAND

*(Opening the meeting with the regular opening ceremony)*

*Secretary:* Mr. President, I have here the applications of the following students of vocational agriculture who wish to join our organization.

*(Secretary reads names.)*

*President:* As all of you know, our constitution sets up certain minimum qualifications which must be met before these candidates are entitled to membership. I shall now determine whether these minimum qualifications have been met.

Mr. Adviser, are all candidates regularly enrolled in a class in vocational agriculture?

*Adviser:* They are.

*President:* And do they possess facilities for and have satisfactory programs of supervised farming?

*Adviser:* They have.

*(The adviser gives any interesting details regarding scope, plans, etc.)*

*President:* Then we shall proceed to ballot. Remember that a majority vote is necessary to elect. *(Vote for each candidate separately.)*

*President:* Mr. Secretary, please read the names of the successful candidates.

*(Secretary does so.)*

*President:* Are these candidates present today?

*Vice-President:* They are in an adjoining room.

*President:* Are they prepared for initiation?

*Vice-President:* They are.

*President:* We are ready to receive them. Let the Farm Watch Dog attend the door.

*(Three raps at the door.)*

*Farm Watch Dog:* (Number) candidates seek to become Farm Hands.

*President:* Are they properly prepared and accompanied?

*Farm Watch Dog:* They are.

*President:* Admit them.

*(The candidates enter. They hold on a hay rope with their left hands and the conductors carry the two ends of the rope. Each candidate wears a white cotton glove on right hand.)*

*Farm Watch Dog:* What have we here?

*First Conductor:* (Number) candidates who wish to become Farm Hands.

*Farm Watch Dog:* Candidates, do you realize that you are about to join an organization of farm boys who have entered the vocation of farming?

*Candidates:* We do.

*Farm Watch Dog:* This is a national organization of farm boys. Will you strive to make it a better organization and to advance vocational agriculture?



*Candidates:* We will.

*Farm Watch Dog:* All candidates will now recite the N. F. A. Creed in unison. All together now, "I believe....."

*(All candidates recite Creed from memory. If there is doubt as to ability of certain candidate to recite Creed alone, he should be called upon to do so.)*

*Farm Watch Dog:* Let me congratulate you. I hope that you will always carry the spirit of the Creed in your hearts as you have carried the words in your memory. Pass on.

*(Conductors lead candidates to the Reporter.)*

*Reporter:* Sirs, the business of farming is the keystone of the arch of industries under which all time must pass. To be a good farmer is one of the greatest and noblest callings. "The first farmer was the first man, and all historic nobility rests on possession and use of lands." Pass on!

*(Conductors lead candidates to the Treasurer.)*

*Treasurer:* Sirs, may I call your attention to the picture at my station? Booker T. Washington was a pioneer in the field of vocational education. He developed the outstanding vocational school in the country. He encouraged Negro farmers to buy land, to develop their soil, to beautify their homes and other community institutions. His love and faith in the possibilities for rural life were expressed in many of his talks to students at Tuskegee and in his writings. He felt that every good farmer should strive to make each year's work more successful to himself, family and community by putting to practice the most improved practices; they should analyze their business, keep records of all accounts and cooperate on all matters relating to their work with other farmers. He encouraged farm organizations on local, state and national basis. Therefore, I am very happy to know that you are interested in farm life and to say this organization hopes that you will strive to carry out its principles in the same manner which Booker T. Washington went about all of his activities. May you at all times labor to improve yourselves, community and all phases of the New Farmers of America.

*(Candidates are conducted to the Secretary.)*

*Secretary:* At this time your attention is called to this boll of cotton, a plant which has played a great part in the life of this American civilization. Perhaps it could be said that it has played and is playing a most important part economically, socially and educationally in the life of the American Negro. Because of its importance as related above we give it outstanding consideration in the work of the organization and use it as one of the symbols of our National organization. As you wear the badge which is made in the shape of the cotton boll, we hope you will work to improve this plant and make it a most useful factor in America and that your successful efforts will advance you to the higher degrees of the organization.

*(The candidates are conducted to the Adviser.)*

*Adviser:* The owl is the time honored symbol of wisdom. Knowledge, properly weighed and digested, brings wisdom. Without education we are handicapped. The uneducated man cannot compete with the educated man, other things being equal. We are asking that you learn

and that you so apply yourselves to your studies that your brain, like Booker T. Washington, will direct your hands to do the common things in an uncommon way, thus making farm life better in every way.

*(Candidates are conducted to the Vice-President.)*

*Vice-President:* The plow is the emblem of labor and tillage of the soil. It has been the forerunner of civilization. Without the steel plow we might still be plowing with sticks, and this marvelous machine age would still be far in the future. Although it looks simple, the plow is a very intricate piece of machinery. There is a lot of mathematics in a plowshare. Without hard labor we can accomplish little. Unless our labor is directed by an intelligent brain, we accomplish nothing. Work hard, but plan before you work. Pass on!

*(The candidates are conducted to the President.)*

*President:* The rising sun is emblematic of the new day that will dawn when all farmers in all States have learned to cooperate. Farm work has been hard. Every farmer competes with his neighbors in the markets of the world. The farm income has been low. The farm family has had to do without many of the conveniences that city people enjoy. Only through cooperation can this situation be changed. Here we learn scientific production and marketing. We practice thrift. We have recreation and educational entertainment. We welcome you as members of our chapter. You will be the leaders in this chapter in two or three years if you develop qualities of leadership. We need you and we need rural leadership. May you prove worthy of the honor we bestow upon you. I will ask the Adviser to present each of you with a Farm Hand button.

*Adviser:* The button worn by Farm Hands is made of bronze. Bronze because of its hardness and endurance has been used for ages by men who sought a good substitute for crude stone instruments. May those qualities of hardness and endurance carry you far in our organization. I take pleasure, therefore, in presenting each of you with the bronze emblem of the New Farmers of America. Although you have done well and merit this recognition, let me remind you that there are heights yet to be attained. Just as there are metals more precious than bronze, there are rarer and more precious laurels to be won in our organization. The gold emblem of a New Farmer awaits you next year. A key awaits those who strive for it—the golden key of a Modern Farmer. In order to obtain the key you must possess rare and golden qualities. You must be malleable but never crushed; ductile but never drawn into anything base or dishonorable; glowing with enthusiasm, but unaltered by the heat of conflict. It is my sincere wish that some of you may eventually be awarded the key of a Superior Farmer.

Your future is before you and you may attain that eminence in the organization so eagerly sought by all worthy members.

*President:* We welcome you as Farm Hands. Please be seated.

*(Meeting is then closed with the regular closing ceremony.)*

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# INITIATION CEREMONY FOR THE DEGREE OF IMPROVED FARMER

*(Opening the meeting with the regular opening ceremony.)*

*Secretary:* Mr. President, it becomes my privilege to announce that the following Farm Hands, having been members of our local chapter for at least one year, are candidates for the grade of Improved Farmer:

*(Reads their names.)*

*President:* As all of you know, our constitution sets up certain minimum qualifications which must be met before these members are entitled to advanced standing. I shall determine whether these minimum qualifications have been met.

Mr. (Adviser) have these Farm Hands had at least one year's instruction in vocational agriculture including a satisfactory program of supervised farming and one year's membership in the N. F. A.?

*Adviser:* They have.

*(The adviser may, at this point, tell of any outstanding work done by the Farm Hands.)*

*President:* Mr. Treasurer, do your records show that each of these candidates has earned and has on deposit, or otherwise productively invested, at least \$25?

*Treasurer:* The candidates have earned and invested the following amounts:

*(The Treasurer reads the thrift account of each Farm Hand.)*

*President:* Mr. (Adviser), are these Farm Hands regularly enrolled in your classes for the second year, and are you satisfied that each of them mapped out an amplified program of supervised farming that will merit the honor we are about to bestow?

*Adviser:* They are all regularly enrolled and satisfactory programs of supervised farming have been approved.

*President:* Are these Farm Hands familiar with the State and local constitutions of N. F. A.?

*Adviser:* They are.

*President:* Mr. (Adviser), are you satisfied that each of these Farm Hands is able to lead a group discussion for ten minutes whenever called upon to do so?

*Adviser:* I am satisfied as to that.

*President:* I shall now ask the candidates to leave the room while the members vote for or against the advancement of the Farm Hands to the rank of Improved Farmer.

*(All Farm Hands retire.)*

Fellow members of the..... Chapter of New Farmers of America, you have had an opportunity to judge for yourselves as to the fitness of these Farm Hands. If you feel that any of them has met the qualifications necessary to election to the grade of Improved Farmer, the chair will be glad to entertain nominations to that grade.

*(Candidates are nominated, no second being required.)*

*President:* You have heard the nominations. We shall vote on the nominees. Has any member anything to say for or against the first candidate?



*(Discuss qualifications of the first candidate, the second candidate, etc.)*

*President:* If there is no further discussion we shall proceed to ballot. Remember that a majority vote of the members present is necessary in order that a Farm Hand may advance to the grade of Improved Farmer.

*(Each candidate is voted on separately.)*

*President:* Mr. Reporter, will you recall the candidates after they have been blindfolded?

*(Candidates are blindfolded before entering the room.) Conductor knocks on outside of door.*

*Farm Watch Dog:* Who comes to the portals of our chapter seeking knowledge of the deeper mysteries of agrarian life and brotherly love?

*Conductor:* Friends who have been elected to membership in this most worthy band, and who wish further knowledge of the rights and privileges which come from a closer fellowship.

*Farm Watch Dog:* Have they shown by interest in our organization, in agricultural problems and community improvements and by their plans for improving their home farm enterprises that they will uphold the honor and integrity of our organization?

*Conductor:* They have fulfilled the requirements of Farm Hands in our chapter and now seek to become Improved Farmers.

*Farm Watch Dog:* Bid them enter and take the steps which all Farm Hands have taken before them. Let them mark well the way which leads them to their goal.

*(Enter candidates through the doorway where they meet obstructions at points (A) "Ignorance", (B) "Waste", (C) "Indolence" and (D) "Isolation".)*

At obstructions (A), (B), (C) and (D), each candidate is stopped by members representing Ignorance, Waste, Indolence and Isolation, respectively, by putting their hands on the shoulders of the candidate as the latter approaches him. Each "stop" announces who he is. "I am Ignorance. I block your progress," etc.

*(Candidates are led to President's station.)*

*President:* You met with four obstructions in your path upon entering this room, the first of which represents Ignorance, the second Waste, the third Indolence, and the fourth Isolation. These, my friends, are stumbling blocks, blocking the way to a prosperous and happy community. Are you, as members of this chapter, willing to help in casting these obstructions out of this, your community?

*(Candidates answer: I am willing.)*

*President:* There are things which you must learn ere you will receive the full benefits of the N. F. A. The Conductor will now lead you to the place where you met the first obstruction, Ignorance. There you will learn of the first ideal for which our chapter stands.

*(Candidates are led to the place where they first met the first obstruction, Ignorance. There they are stopped by Wisdom—the Adviser under the owl.)*

*Wisdom:* Halt! Who dares to pass the great spirit of Wisdom?

*Conductor:* Farm Hands who would become Improved Farmers.

*Wisdom:* Ha! So they think to become farmers. Have they not heard that many say that farming is no longer a respectable calling, that none enter into farming but boors, peasants and those men fitted for nothing else?

*Conductor:* They have heard it, but they believe this to be false. They believe farming is a calling only to be accepted by those highly trained in the arts of agriculture.

*Wisdom:* How now, then do these Farm Hands, unskilled in this great occupation, presume to consider farming?

*Conductor:* They are eager to learn the principles of scientific agriculture through study and participation in farming activities.

*Wisdom:* You have spoken well. It is true, those who succeed best in life, for whatever occupation, are themselves students and know the means whereby the great problems may be solved. Ignorance leads to indolence, neglect, waste, want and poverty. Wisdom leads to industry, productivity, plenty and happiness. My symbol is the owl, traditionally the wisest of all birds. May this symbol inspire you to study each problem knowing that he who is successful in agriculture must know why and how. The Conductor will now take you to the feet of Thrift who now takes the place of Waste. He will instruct you in the meaning of this word in our order.

*(The Treasurer represents Thrift.)*

*Thrift:* Candidates, you have been conducted to this place to learn more of the value of thrift. The story is told that Joseph, son of Jacob, was sent by his father to meet his brethren who were feeding their father's flocks at Shechem. His brethren hated him and when he drew near unto them they stripped him of his coat of many colors, which his father had given him, and sold him unto captivity in Egypt. Later, because he found favor with the Lord, he was put in charge of the store-houses of Egypt to direct the production and storing of food against the seven years of famine. In due time his brethren heard that there was food in Egypt and made a journey to that country that they and their families might not starve. Joseph knew them at once and not only gave them food but returned in each man's sack the money which he had brought to buy food, and in further token of his forgiveness, asked that they bring their father, together with their flocks and families, to Egypt that they might enjoy food and protection through the famine. May this story of the boy who rendered service to his needy brothers be a constant reminder to you. May the example of this thrifty man, Joseph, be your guide. Save and prepare for the lean years in order that you may better be able to support yourself, your family and the worthy enterprises of your community.

You will now be conducted to the place where Indolence has been displaced by Labor; there you will be further instructed.

*(The Vice-President represents Labor.)*

*Labor:* My friends, you have observed that we have removed the obstruction, Indolence, and I, Labor, stand in its place. Without intelligent work there can be no accomplishment and without the realization of accomplishment there can be no human happiness. Although labor sometimes seems arduous and the job to be done seems hard, the planning and doing of a good piece of work brings a certain satisfaction that is the reward of the industrious man.

When you were made a Farm Hand you were told that the plow is symbolic of labor and tillage of the soil. During the past century our forefathers have used this implement to good advantage in transforming America from a wilderness to the greatest nation on earth. New Farmers of America should honor the plow and the hardy pioneers who have used it so industriously. The New Farmer must use his brain as well as his hands. Careful study of modern methods and careful planning of work will reduce the amount of manual labor and lower production costs on the farm.

May I suggest, then, that you work in order to be happy. Work with others—cooperate.

The fourth obstruction, Isolation, has been replaced by Co-operation.

You will be conducted to Co-operation. Learn from him.

*(The Conductor will lead the initiates to Co-operation. At this place the blindfolds will be removed and each candidate will be handed a fiber from a rope.)*

*(The President acts as Co-operation.)*

*Co-operation:* Break the fiber which I have given you. *(Candidates break fibers.)* Just so will you be broken if you remain in isolation as did our forefathers. I shall now give you a rope. Break this also. *(Candidates attempt one at a time to break the rope but are unable to do so.)*

*Conductor:* You had several fibers bound together. It was impossible to break the fibers when they were bound together.

*Co-operation:* You speak the truth. Our organization is bound together even as this rope is bound. Together we shall achieve great things. Together we shall serve our fellowmen. My symbol is the rising sun. *(Co-operation shakes hands with candidates.)* Remember that Co-operation is our fourth great ideal and that he who serves best must first learn to work with others. Thousands of New Farmers of America are ready to co-operate with you in order to improve and enlarge our organization. The spirit of Co-operation engendered in chapters of New Farmers of America will live with us after we leave this school. When we are all working together—in this community, in this State and in this our Country—a new day indeed will have dawned. Let us all work together and hasten the coming of the Rising Sun.

*President:* It gives me great pleasure to tell you that you have been raised to the degree of Improved Farmer. This is the highest grade of membership that can be conferred upon you by any local chapter. You are now entitled to wear a silver emblem rather than one of bronze. I have the honor of presenting each of you with the silver emblem of this degree. As you wear the emblem may you develop more and more noble qualities. May you never be tarnished with selfishness, thoughtlessness, and wastefulness. Although you are laying aside the bronze button of a Farm Hand, I hope you will retain those bronze-like qualities of hardness and endurance that have won for you promotion in our organization.

Although you have done well your first year and merit this recognition, let me remind you that there are heights yet to be attained. Just as there are other metals more precious than silver, there are rarer and more precious laurels to be won in our organization. A key is waiting for those who strive for it—the golden key of a Modern Farmer. In order to obtain that key you must possess rare and golden qualities. You must be malleable but never crushed; ductile but never drawn



into anything base or dishonorable; glowing with enthusiasm but unaltered by the heat of conflict.

Every worthwhile reward carries with it an obligation. You have been marked for distinction in our organization. For that reason, we shall expect more of you. Your instructor, your parents and the community will expect you to accomplish much more as an Improved Farmer than you did as a Farm Hand. As a token of our esteem we have advanced you to the degree of Improved Farmer. In return, we shall expect more loyalty and effort for the New Farmers of America and more service to your fellowmen. Be seated.

*(Meeting is then closed with regular closing ceremony.)*

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## INITIATION CEREMONY FOR THE DEGREE OF MODERN FARMER

*(The raising of Improved Farmers to Modern Farmers will be conducted as one of the features on the State Convention program. The following ceremony should be used for this part of the program. State officers should be in charge.)*

*State President: (Raps for attention.)* At this time, we will proceed with the rising of Improved Farmer to the degree of Modern Farmer. Mr. Secretary, what have you to report concerning candidates eligible for this degree?

*(Each State may use the name to designate the State Farmer degree as set forth in its constitution.)*

*State Secretary:* I am pleased to submit the names of the following candidates who have been nominated by the State Executive Committee as those who have been found most worthy of the honor of the degree of Modern Farmer. *(Reads names.)*

*State President:* As all of you know, our constitution sets up certain minimum qualifications which must be met before candidates are eligible for election to this degree with the honors and privileges pertaining thereto. Mr. Secretary, will you please read the qualifications for the Modern Farmer degree?

*(Secretary reads from the State Constitution the qualifications for the Modern Farmer degree.)*

*State President:* Mr. Adviser, have you carefully examined and reviewed the records of these candidates before submitting your recommendations to the State Executive Committee?

*State Adviser:* I have, Mr. President, and have found all candidates eligible for election.

*State President:* Mr. Chairman of the Executive Committee, has your Committee examined and carefully reviewed the records of these candidates?

*Chairman State Executive Committee:* We have, Mr. President.

*State President:* Mr. Chairman of the Executive Committee, what is the nature of the achievement records submitted by these worthy candidates?

*Chairman State Executive Committee:* Mr. President, we have prepared a brief of the record of each candidate nominated.

*State President:* Mr. Chairman, will you please present your report on the candidates?

*(Chairman should present briefs of the candidates' records and comment upon them; candidates acknowledge nomination when called upon.)*

*State President:* According to the provisions of our State Constitution and in harmony with the provisions of the National N. F. A. Constitution, our State is entitled to elect annually 10 or more qualified candidates to the degree of Modern Farmer, but not in excess of 1 per cent of total membership where it exceeds 1,000 individuals. It now remains for the delegates to ballot on these nominees and to elect to the degree of Modern Farmer those who, in their judgment, are most eminently qualified to receive it.

*(The balloting is conducted in accordance with the by-laws.)*

President may call for same while vote is being counted.

*State President:* Mr. Secretary, has the vote on the newly-elected Modern Farmer been recorded?

*State President:* It has.

*State President:* Mr. Secretary, will you please read the names of the candidates who have been so elected?

*(Secretary reads names of newly-elected Modern Farmers.)*

*State President:* Will the newly-elected Modern Farmers please rise, and will the State Reporter conduct them to the platform?

*(It is suggested that the Modern Farmers be lined up facing the audience.)*

*State President:* Will the officers of the State Association now prepare to raise the newly-elected Modern Farmers to the third degree of N. F. A.?

*(Officers take their proper places on the platform for the ceremony; when all officers are in place ceremony proceeds.)*

*State Reporter:* It is a great honor to be nominated for the Modern Farmer degree. It is a still greater honor to be duly elected to this degree by your fellow members of ..... Association of N. F. A.

*First Vice-President:* *(To the newly-elected Modern Farmers assembled before him.)*

As Farm Hands and Improved Farmers, you were constantly urged to strive to advance toward higher degrees in the organization of New Farmers of America. You have succeeded in attaining the third degree, that of Modern Farmer, and in progressing toward the ultimate goal of a Superior Farmer.

*State Treasurer:* This achievement brings you greater honors as well as additional responsibilities. As Modern Farmers, you have widened the field of your service and influence in the upbuilding of agriculture, the most basic industry of the nation and the most important occupation of civilized man. With the tillage of the soil, man emerged from savagery and a roving existence. From earliest times, the farmer has not only produced food, raiment, and raw material for the sons of men, but has also furnished the city population with the flower of its humanity, free-thinking, well-nurtured youth.

*State Adviser:* In your own time; in view of the vast problems of providing food and other supplies for the crowded populations of the world, agriculture possesses an importance never before realized, and is the subject of highly scientific study and experimentation.

The advancement of this State has been due largely to the improvement of agricultural practices and living conditions in the open country. We have multiplied our individual efforts in manifold ways through the use of labor-saving machinery and the harnessing of mechanical power, through the intelligent use of science and invention, through the application of business practice and managerial ability and through the wise conservation of both human and natural resources.

Through the N. F. A. activities, you have learned to cooperate as well as to appreciate the value of a wise division of labor and responsibility. I therefore charge each one of you as Modern Farmers to generously accept and execute the duties and responsibilities to which you are best adapted in the advancement of agricultural prosperity.



*State President:* As Farm Hands and as Improved Farmers, you were told that the golden key of a Modern Farmer was awaiting you. The bronze emblem of the Farm Hand has given place to the silver emblem of the Improved Farmer, which now in turn, has evolved into the golden key of a Modern Farmer. This is symbolic of your growth and development in your chosen occupation.

May the permanence of the rare and golden qualities of this emblem be a constant reminder to you of the soundness of your training, the worthiness of your achievement, and the loftiness of your ideals.

This key is further symbolic of life and of the golden opportunities for service and influence which it may unlock for you as you continue with glowing enthusiasm in your worthy progress.

I therefore, on behalf of the (.....State) Association of New Farmers of America, confer upon you the degree of Modern Farmer, together with its honors and privileges, and present to you this key, the emblem of the degree.

*(President and other officers congratulate the Modern Farmers and all return to their seats.)*



# INITIATION CEREMONY FOR THE DEGREE OF SUPERIOR FARMER

*(The raising of Modern Farmers to Superior Farmers will be conducted as one of the National Convention of New Farmers of America. The following ceremony is to be used for this program. National officers will be in charge.)*

*National President: (Raps for attention.)* We now come to one of the most important activities of the National Convention of New Farmers of America, the election and raising of Modern Farmers to the degree of Superior Farmer. The Superior Farmer degree marks the highest grade of membership achievement in our organization.

As you all know, our Constitution sets up certain qualifications which must be met before candidates are eligible for election to the degree of Superior Farmer. Mr. Secretary, will you please read the qualifications for this degree?

*Secretary: (Rises and reads the qualifications as set up in Article IV, Section 5 of the National N. F. A. Constitution.)*

*National President:* Mr. Executive Secretary, what have you to report concerning applications for Superior Farmer degree.

*Executive Secretary: (rises)* I am pleased to read the names of the following candidates submitted for the Superior Farmer degree.

*(Read names of both active and honorary candidates.)*

*National President:* Mr. Adviser, have the records of each of these candidates been carefully examined and reviewed?

*National Adviser:* They have, Mr. President. Briefs of the candidates' records have been prepared and placed in the hands of the delegates present. The candidates' records have been reviewed by the National Board of Trustees. All candidates nominated have been found worthy of the honor of the Superior Farmer degree and are recommended for election at this time.

*National President:* Mr. Treasurer, are the State Associations nominating these candidates in good standing and have the national dues been paid which entitle the States represented to the number of candidates submitted?

*National Treasurer:* They have, Mr. President.

*(Reads dues record if requested.)*

*National President:* It then remains for these candidates whose names have been submitted and whose records have been reviewed to receive a majority vote of the delegates present for election, having met the qualifications for the degree and having been properly recommended by the Board of Trustees. I am now ready to entertain a motion from the floor that the candidates whose names have been submitted be declared elected to the degree of Superior Farmer.

*(Some delegate moves and another seconds that the candidates recommended receive the degree of Superior Farmer. Vote may be taken on all at the same time.)*

*National President:* Mr. Secretary, what is the result of the vote?

*Secretary:* Mr. President, the vote is.....to.....(or unanimous).

*National President:* Then I declare the candidates duly elected according to your vote. Will the newly-elected Superior Farmers come forward and take places on the stage facing the delegates? Will the National officers come forward and take places facing the candidates?

*(When all are in place, the ceremony proceeds as follows:)*

*Third Vice-President:* Welcome, newly-elected Superior Farmers. By your accomplishments you have proven not only your interest but your efficiency in agriculture, the world's basic industry. You are entitled to honors and privileges which accompany the Superior Farmer degree of the N. F. A. May your efforts in the future be as steady and productive as they have been in the past.

As National officers it is our duty to transact the business of the National organization, and acknowledge achievement in a fitting and proper manner according to the provisions of our Constitution. You are proud to have attained your goal; we are proud to reward your efforts in the name of the New Farmers of America.

*Second Vice-President:* Boundaries within our country exist only in name. The true American citizen is interested in and loyal to his local community and State, but his greatest devotion is to his country. The true Superior Farmer in the N. F. A. looks beyond the stages of Farm Hand, Improved Farmer and Modern Farmer. He concerns himself not only with the National organization, working for the upbuilding of agriculture throughout the land, which, in turn, upbuilds his local community and State.

*First Vice-President:* As Farm Hands, Improved Farmers and Modern Farmers you were constantly urged and encouraged to strive to advance to the degree of Superior Farmer. Through your untiring efforts you have now succeeded in attaining this end. Again this honor carries with it additional responsibility and we look upon this occasion merely as a mile-stone in your life of achievement in agriculture. Your vision has expanded beyond the limits of your home community and the confines of your State until it has reached the broad horizon of this great field of the organization. Therefore you are expected, on the one hand, to provide a worthy example of progressive and firmly-established farming, and on the other hand, to exert leadership wherever possible in agricultural thought and counsel.

*National Adviser:* As Superior Farmers, I charge you to continue your abounding faith in the agricultural industry and home life in the open country. Be ever proud to be tillers of the soil and producers of livestock. Appreciate the bounties of nature and realize that man gets from life only what he can use and enjoy. Be conscious of your service to the nation as primary producers of many of the necessities of life. Consider your work as a calling and take pride in your achievement as craftsmen and artists. But with all the virtues of independence in thought and action, be ever mindful of your individual limitations and your vital need to co-operate with your neighbor in the larger business and social activities which have become an essential part of the modern farming. Remember, "In union there is strength!"

*National President:* As Modern Farmers, you received an emblem of that degree mounted on a golden key which unlocked for you the gate to a larger field of responsibility and achievement in agriculture. On the emblem of the Superior Farmer degree, the Modern Farmer key has been surmounted by an eagle which is symbolic of strength, courage and prowess and which indicates the national scope of the organization



and the extended honor which has been conferred upon you. From earliest times the eagle has been used as an emblem of leadership, power and progress. The Romans carried a gold eagle on a spear at the head of their legions. In 1782 the United States adopted as its emblem the eagle with outspread wings, a shield on its breast, holding an olive branch and a shelf of arrows in its talons. The eagle is a bird of superb strength, keenness of sight and marvelous powers of flight. As the eagle soars high, so let your vision soar and lead you to greater heights of achievement. Bring keen thought to bear on your problems. Be strong and fearless in spirit and action.

I therefore, on behalf of the National Organization of N. F. A. confer upon you the degree of Superior Farmer, together with its honors and privileges, and present you this key, the emblem of this degree.

*(Presents each Superior Farmer with a Key, and all return to seats in audience.)*



## CHAPTER INITIATION CEREMONY FOR RECEIVING CANDIDATES INTO HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

*President:* We are very happy to receive into honorary membership, candidates whom we elected to this degree at our last regular meeting.

Mr. Secretary, will you please read the section of our constitution which provides for this membership?

*Secretary:* Article 3, Section 4, of the National Constitution reads as follows: "Honorary Membership—Instructors, school principals, farmer agents, farmers, business men, and other men who are helping to promote vocational agriculture may be elected to honorary membership by a majority vote of the active members present at any regular meeting."

*President:* Mr. Secretary, will you kindly read the section of our constitution which provides for election to the degree of honorary membership for further advancement to any of the advanced degrees of our organization?

Mr. Secretary, will you please read the names of the candidates who are to receive this honor?

*Secretary:* Mr. President and Fellow New Farmers, I am glad to read the following names:.....

*(President then gives summary of what each candidate has done for vocational agriculture and the N. F. A. to show why the honor is being conferred.)*

*President:* Mr. Conductor, will you please present these candidates to the Vice-President?

*Conductor:* I will, Mr. President.

*Vice-President:* *(Reads names of candidates.)*—I welcome you to our organization. My position is by the plow—the symbol of labor and tillage of the soil. Without labor, neither knowledge nor wisdom can accomplish much.

*President:* Mr. Conductor, will you please present the candidates to the Reporter?

*Conductor:* I will, Mr. President.

*Reporter:* I stand beneath the flag. My duties require me to cover the country with information just as the flag covers America. May I inform you that the New Farmers of America is a National organization which functions everywhere in this country where there is a Negro department of vocational agriculture.

*President:* Mr. Conductor, will you conduct the candidates to the Secretary?

*Conductor:* I will, Mr. President.

*Secretary:* The symbol of my office is this boll of cotton. Cotton is the chief crop grown in practically every state where there is an N. F. A. chapter. This is why a boll of cotton is used as one of our symbols. I welcome you to our organization.

*President:* Mr. Conductor, will you please present the candidates to the Treasurer?

*Conductor:* I will, Mr. President.

*Treasurer:* The symbol of my office is the picture of Booker T. Washington, the man who clearly demonstrated that a real farmer who uses his training and intelligence can reach the top rung of the ladder of success. May we use our talents and training for the betterment of ourselves and our countrymen. Sirs, I welcome you to our organization.

*(Conductor will now present the candidates to the President.)*

*Conductor:* I will, Mr. President.

*President:* My position is under the rising sun, which represents the token of a new era in agriculture. If we but follow our leaders, we shall be led out of the darkness of selfishness and into the glorious sunlight of brotherhood and cooperation. In the behalf of each and every member of this chapter, I wish to say that we welcome you to honorary membership in our chapter. May this affiliation prove valuable to all. We trust that you will further familiarize yourselves with the purposes of our organization and keep faith with the New Farmer Creed. Remember that we stand ready to assist you in any profitable enterprise which you may wish to undertake for the good of all. May I impress upon you that we as boys look to you for counsel and guidance. It is because of the great respect that we have for you that we have elected you to this degree. May you find help in us and we in you and may this new affiliation prove an additional stone in the building up of a strong foundation in agriculture for the future of our Country. Now in behalf of the New Farmers of America of the..... (chapter) I confer upon you the degree of Honorary Membership in this chapter together with all its privileges and honors.

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## MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

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### POPULAR SPIRITUALS AND SONGS FOR N. F. A. MEETINGS

"Climbing Jacob's Ladder"  
"Oh Mary Don't You Weep"  
"Heav'n, Heav'n"  
"Oh, Dem Golden Slippers"  
"Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen"  
"Go Down Moses"  
"Don't You Get Weary"  
"On My Journey Home"  
"Joshua Fit De Battle Ob Jerico"  
"We Am Clim'in Jacob's Ladder"  
"Up On De Mountain"  
"Lit'le David Play on Yo' Harp"  
"All God's Chillun Got Wings"  
"Dere's No Hidin' Place Down Dere"  
"I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray"  
"It's Me, O, Lord"  
"I Got a Home in-a Dat Rock"  
"By An' By"  
"My Lord's a-Writin' All De Time"  
"Who'll Be a Witness For My Lord"  
"My Lord, What a Morning"

---

### FOLK SONGS

"Old Folks At Home"  
"My Old Kentucky Home"  
"Old Black Joe"  
"Dixie"  
"John Brown's Body"

## GIVE ME THAT OLD N. F. A. SPIRIT

(Tune—"Old Time Religion")

Give me that old N. F. A. spirit  
Give me that old N. F. A. spirit  
Give me that old N. F. A. spirit  
It's good enough for me.

It was good for our adviser  
It was good for our adviser  
It was good for our adviser  
It's good enough for me.

It was good for Mr.....  
It was good for Mr.....  
It was good for Mr.....  
It's good enough for me.

It makes me love everybody  
Makes me love everybody  
Makes me love everybody  
It's good enough for me.

---

## "HOW D'YE DO"

(Tune:—"Auld Lang Syne")

We're always glad to meet new friends,  
Our greetings all to you.  
We cannot all shake hands, you see,  
So here's our "How d'ye do".

We're here for fun right from the start,  
This New Farmer's gang;  
Just laugh and sing with all your heart,  
Put it over with a "bang";  
Let other meetings be forgot,  
Let this one be the best.  
Join in the songs we sing today  
And be happy with the rest.

On mules we find two legs behind  
And two we find before,  
We stand behind before we find  
What the two behind be for  
When we're behind the two behind  
We find what those be for,  
So stand before the two behind  
And behind the two before.

## SMILES

There are smiles in Mississippi,  
There are smiles in Idaho  
And you'll find them down in dear  
    Old Georgia  
And every part of Ohio,  
There are miles of smiles in New Jersey  
And in Alabama and Tennessee;  
But the smiles you get with the New Farmers  
Make you feel it's the place to be.

---

## "LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING"

*Words by*  
JAMES WELDON JOHNSON

*Music by*  
J. ROSAMOND JOHNSON

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Lift ev'ry voice and sing,  
'Till Earth and Heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.  
Let our rejoicings rise  
High as the listening skies;  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song, full of the faith that the dark past has taught us.  
Sing a song, full of the hope that the present has brought us.  
Facing the rising sun, our new day begun;  
Let us march on 'til victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died.  
Yet with a steady beat  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears have been watered.  
We have come treading our way through the blood of the slaughter.  
Out of a gloomy past, 'til now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou has brought us thus far on the way.  
Thou, who hast by Thy might, let us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places our God where we met Thee;  
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee.  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand may we forever stand  
True to our God, true to our native land.



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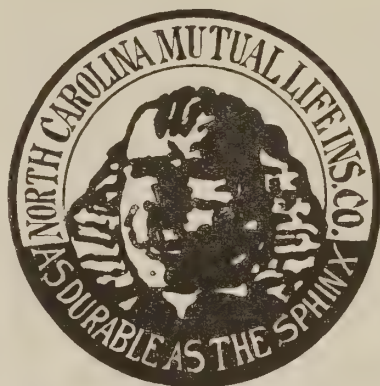
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